

# **NEWS FROM SCDCA**

## **South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs**



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**July 20, 2006**

**Release #06-101**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SCDCA WARNS CONSUMERS OF BOGUS CASHIER'S CHECKS**

Columbia, SC.....The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is warning consumers about fraudulent cashier's checks that are circulating in the state. Several South Carolina residents have received unsolicited cashier's checks in amounts ranging from \$1,000 up to \$8,000.

While the cashier's check scam has several variations, the one most commonly used involves checks accompanied by letters notifying the recipients that they have won a lottery or a sweepstakes. The consumer is instructed to deposit the check into their account and to return a certain amount in order to claim their prize. Because the fees to claim the prize can be thousands of dollars, some consumers borrow that money against their so-called winnings. It's not until days or weeks later, when the cashier's check doesn't clear, that the consumer discovers that the check was fraudulent.

SCDCA offers the following tips to consumers:

- Remember in order to win a lottery, you must purchase a ticket.
- Do not cash or deposit a cashier's check from a source that you do not know.
- If you are instructed to deposit the check and wire money, it is probably a scam.
- Disregard any request asking you to send cash to redeem a prize.

*(more)*

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#### **About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:**

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit [www.sccconsumer.gov](http://www.sccconsumer.gov)

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- **Consumers are responsible for deposited fraudulent checks. If the check is returned due to non-sufficient funds, the bank will deduct the amount from your account.**

**For more information on consumer protection issues contact the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-922-1594 (toll-free in SC) or visit our Website at [www.scconsumer.gov](http://www.scconsumer.gov).**

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